

17) (four times amended) A method of forming a metal product having [a] an edge area comprising a cutting edge having a wear resistant surface, comprising the steps of: forming a workpiece substrate having [a] an edge area comprising a cutting edge portion; performing a high-density coating process to coat at least the cutting edge portion of the workpiece substrate with a wear resistant coating material; performing a hot isostatic pressing treatment on the coated workpiece substrate to obtain a metal product having a wear resistant surface comprised of the coating material, the wear resistant surface being formed at the cutting edge portion and having a diffusion bonding between the coating material and the workpiece substrate; and sharpening the cutting edge portion so that the diffusion bonding between the coating material and the workpiece substrate retains the wear resistant coating material on the cutting edge portion during the sharpening process of the cutting edge portion and during use of the cutting edge portion of the formed metal product.

27) (Twice Amended) A method of forming a kitchen knife having an edge area comprising a cutting edge having a wear resistant surface, comprising the steps of: forming a knife substrate having an edge area comprising a cutting edge portion; performing a high-density coating process to coat at least the cutting edge portion of the knife substrate with a wear resistant coating material; performing a hot isostatic pressing treatment on the coated knife substrate to obtain a kitchen knife having a wear resistant surface comprised of the coating material, the wear resistant surface being formed at the cutting edge portion and having a diffusion bonding between the coating material and the knife substrate; and sharpening the cutting edge portion so that the diffusion bonding between the coating material and the knife substrate retains the wear resistant coating material on the cutting edge portion during an edge sharpening process of the cutting edge portion and during use of the cutting edge portion of the formed kitchen knife.